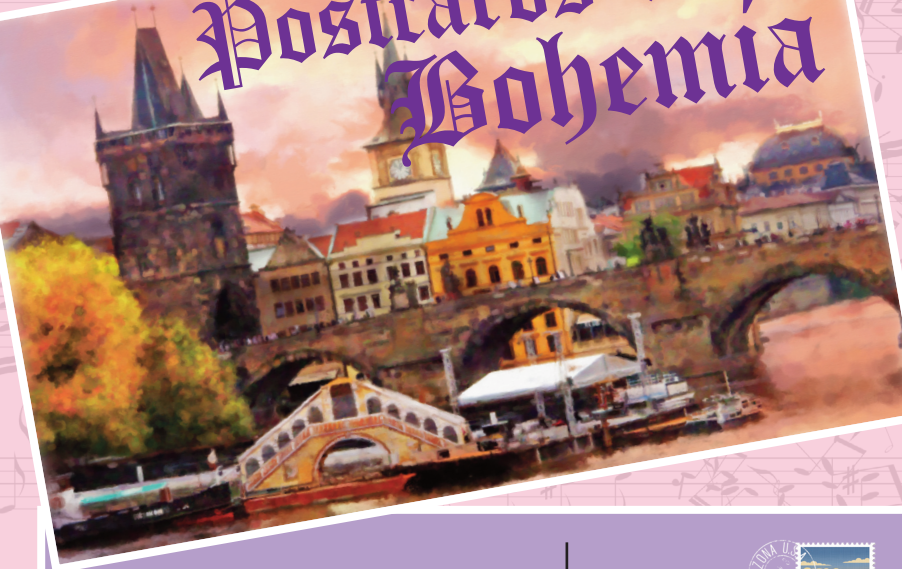




Postcards from Bohemia



Dear NVSO Fan:

Thank you for joining us for our celebration of Smetana's 200th Birthday, with music by Smetana, Janáček, Fučík, and Dvořák. We are glad you are in our audience.

Enjoy the concert!



7 p.m.
Saturday
March 16, 2024

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School Auditorium

1700 E. Union Hills
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A Letter from the President

Thank you for joining North Valley Symphony Orchestra as we present “Postcards from Bohemia.” We are excited to be taking you on a trip to Bohemia tonight, without even leaving Phoenix!



I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel extensively over the years and I have always found that listening to the music of a region is such a wonderful way to connect to the destination. 10 years ago, I had the opportunity to take a Danube River cruise, with a 3-day extension to visit Prague. Knowing that we would be driven from Passau Germany to Prague through the Czech countryside, I loaded my iPod with Smetana’s *Má Vlast*, a tone poem inspired by the history, legends, and countryside of the composer’s Bohemian homeland. Driving through this beautiful country, listening to music inspired by it, was a truly magical experience. Tonight, we will transport you there for an evening as we perform music by Czech composers, including 2 movements from *Má Vlast*. We hope you enjoy the trip down the Moldau River and into the dark forests and bucolic countryside of the Czech Republic. Thank you to everyone who submitted photos from your own travels to our Photo Contest!

Our youth musicians have started a new semester and are looking forward to their “Storms and Sunshine” concert on May 11. They are also preparing for the annual Summerford Concerto Competition which will be held in April. I am always so proud of the students in our youth program as I watch them learn and grow as musicians, students, and individuals. Please consider coming out to their concert in May to support their efforts!

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who participated in our “Mardi Gras Melodies” fundraiser presented by the Phoenix Legacy Foundation on February 3rd. Whether you participated as a volunteer, musician, sponsor, attendee, or any combination thereof, we truly value your support. We cannot do what we do without you! Thank you!

Liz Galpin

Biographies



Kevin Kozacek, Music Director

Originally from Colorado, Kevin Kozacek graduated from the University of Northern Colorado, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education with an emphasis in choral conducting, under the tutelage of Dr. Howard Skinner. Mr. Kozacek received both his Master of Arts and Master of Music degrees from Northern Arizona University, studying orchestral conducting under Dr. Nicholas Ross and Dr. Daniel O'Bryant. He has additionally studied conducting under Maestros Lawrence Golan, Don Thulean, Apo Hsu,

Harold Farberman, Raymond Harvey, and Zvonimir Hacko. Mr. Kozacek has guest-conducted orchestras in Kiev, Ukraine, and Krasnoyarsk, Russia, and been invited to conduct workshops and high school honor orchestras in local Arizona school districts. Mr. Kozacek has taught public school music in grades K-12, and directed theater, instrumental ensembles, and choral groups in churches and communities in England, Nebraska, Colorado, Texas, and Arizona. He has served as Artistic Director for ProMusica Arizona Chorale and Orchestra in Phoenix, and Music Director for the Verde Valley Sinfonietta in Sedona. In 2012, Mr. Kozacek was invited to serve as the founding Music Director for North Valley Symphony Orchestra. Kevin and his wife Cindy have two grown sons, Matt and Chris, and four grandchildren, Audrey, Owen Zeke and Sylvee.



Ellen Hansbury, Concertmaster

Ellen began studying the violin at the age of four. At the College Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, she went on to major in violin performance under the direction of Kurt Sassmannshaus. Ellen later earned her MBA from UC and decided to pursue a career in marketing. With a strong passion for music and performing, she continued to play in community orchestras. Ellen joined NVSO in 2015 and thoroughly enjoys the musicianship and sense of community

this organization brings. When she's not playing the violin, Ellen explores the outdoors with her husband and their pups Stella and Samson.

Biographies



Josh Condon, Assistant Conductor

Josh is thrilled to be in his second year as Assistant Conductor for North Valley Symphony Orchestra! Around the valley, Josh has worked as a theatrical music director for Arizona Broadway Theatre, The Phoenix Theatre Company, Xavier College Preparatory, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Childsplay, Arizona State University, and the Arizona Musical Theatre Orchestra. Prior to coming to Arizona, Josh served as a music director/pianist for the Norwegian, Celebrity, and Princess cruise lines, where he collaborated with numerous West End and Broadway performers. He holds a B.M. in Jazz Studies from Ithaca College and an M.M. in Musical Theatre/Opera Music Direction from ASU. He currently serves as Resident Artist & Director of Community Music Programs at Arizona Musicfest and as Director of Music at St. Francis Xavier Parish.

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Postcards from Bohemia

Conductor - Kevin Kozacek
Assistant Conductor - Joshua Condon

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904) ***Carnival Overture, Op. 92***

Leoš Janáček (1854-1928) ***Lachian Dances***
I. "Starodávný - Ancient One"
VI. "Pilký"

Julius Fučík (1872-1916) ***Entrance of the Gladiators, Op. 68***

- 20 Minute Intermission -

Bedřich Smetana (1824-1884) **"Vltava" or "The Moldau"**
JB 1:112/2
from ***Má vlast***

**"Z českých luhů a hájů" or
"From Bohemia's Woods and Fields"**
JB 1:112/4
from ***Má vlast***



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Postcards from Bohemia

CONCERT NOTES

All four of the Czech composers featured on this concert are known for their nationalistic style, and use of rhythms and folk-like melodies which reflect their native Bohemia.

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904) was the eldest of fourteen siblings, and showed promise at a young age as a violinist. As a teenager he lived with his uncle, and studied organ to help supplement his meager earnings as violinist and violist in small professional orchestras in Prague. The first public performance of his compositions didn't begin until he was 31, and he was still only locally known. Dvořák sought recognition beyond Prague by submitting scores of symphonies and other works to German and Austrian competitions. He won his first prize in 1874. After his third win in 1877, one of the jurists, Johannes Brahms, recommended Dvořák to his publisher, Simrock, who commissioned what became the *Slavonic Dances, Op. 46*. Thus, his career as an internationally recognized composer was launched. In 1892 Dvořák became the director of the National Conservatory of Music of America in New York City. While in the United States, Dvořák wrote his three most successful orchestral works: the *Symphony No. 9, Op. 95, "From the New World"*, his *Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104*, and his famous *String Quartet in F Major*, the "American". While he remained at the Conservatory for two more years, pay cuts and homesickness led him to return to Bohemia in 1895, where he continued a successful career in composition until his death in 1904 from influenza.

Leoš Janáček (1854-1928) is known not only as a composer, but also as a musicologist. Janáček was educated in Prague, Leipzig, and Vienna, and settled in Brno, where he devoted himself mainly to folkloristic research. His earlier compositions were influenced by Antonín Dvořák, but around 1900 he began to incorporate his earlier studies of national folk music, to create his own style. He also incorporated transcriptions of "speech melodies", a highly original use of his study of Bohemian musicology of lyric/spoken language. His daughter Olga suddenly died in 1903, resulting in his opera *Jenůfa*, which is often called the "Moravian national opera".

continued p. 12

Postcards from Bohemia

CONCERT NOTES

In the following years, Janáček became frustrated with a lack of recognition from Prague. But a revised edition of *Jenůfa* was premiered at the National Theatre in 1916, which gave Janáček access to the world's great opera stages.

Julius Fučík (1872-1916) was a composer and conductor of military bands, and is sometimes known as the "Bohemian Sousa". He composed over 400 marches, polkas, and waltzes. Today his marches are still played as patriotic music in the Czech Republic. In 1891 Fučík joined the Austro-Hungarian Regiment as a military musician, and in 1897 he became bandmaster based in Sarajevo. It was here that he wrote his most famous piece, the *Entrance of the Gladiators*. The piece was originally titled *Grande Marche Chromatique*. But his interest in Roman history led him to rename the piece, and it has become widely recognized as a popular tune for circus clowns. With the outbreak of the WWI, his health suffered, and Fučík died in Berlin at the age of 44, likely of a heart attack.

Bedřich Smetana (1824-1884) has been regarded as the father of Czech music. He is best known for his 1866 opera *The Bartered Bride* and for the symphonic cycle *Má vlast* ("My fatherland"). Smetana was naturally gifted as a composer, and gave his first public performance at the age of six. His first nationalistic music was written during the 1848 Prague uprising. He was unable to establish a career in Prague, so he left for Sweden, where he began to write large-scale orchestral works. In the early 1860s, a more liberal political climate in Bohemia encouraged Smetana to return permanently to Prague, where he actively promoted a new genre of Czech opera. In 1866, Smetana became the Provisional Theatre's principal conductor, but the years of his conductorship were marked by controversy because of his alignment with the ultra-progressive ideas of Richard Wagner. The controversy precipitated his resignation from the theatre in 1874, and hastened a decline in Smetana's health. Within ten years, Smetana became completely deaf, suffered a mental collapse, and was incarcerated in an asylum where he died in 1874.

— Program Notes by Kevin Kozacek

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Michaela Bubach
Kaitlyn Golden
Breana Keen
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Rebecca Sumsion

Second Violin

Gabrielle Beam *
Sylvia L. Depta
Eileen L. Friedman
Jay Friedman
Kimberly Klatt
Heidi Kosiorek
Jordan Scott-Martin
Christian Ortega
Carol Routh
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Emma Mazur *
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Liz Galpin *
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Cello cont.

Abbey Jaye Hunt
Emmly Langner
Ella MacDonald
Alta Thoreson

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Byron Edgar *
Daniel Morrissey
Howard Michael Robinson
Fred Wengrzynek

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Cheryl Riggle *
Morgan Chaisson

Piccolo

Nora Welsh *

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Suzanne Johnsen

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Michelle Horowitz

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Leah Hodge *
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Percussion

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Melissa Krout
Christopher Woodward

Harp

Pam Hahn * #

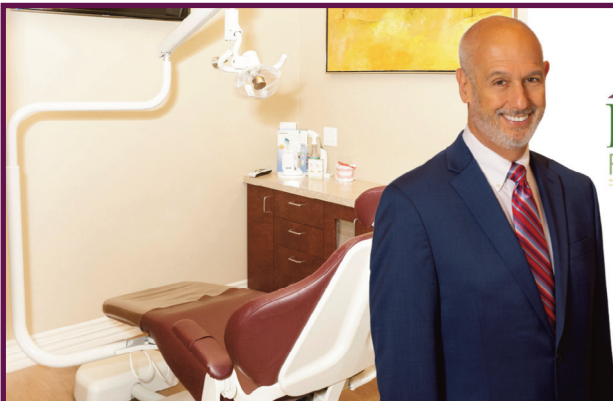
Personnel listed
alphabetically after
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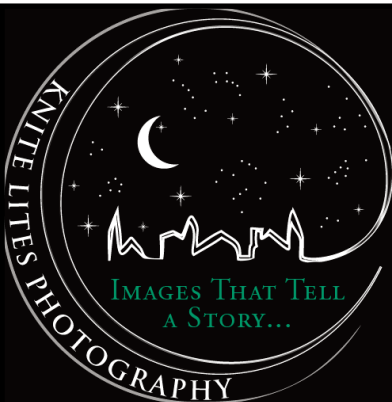
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Postcards from Bohemia Photo Contest

In the spirit of our "Postcards from Bohemia" concert, we held a photo contest and asked anyone who had visited Prague or the surrounding areas of the Czech Republic to share their photos of the trip. Here are a few of the terrific images. You may also notice some of these same photos during tonight's performance!



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